



# Employee News

---

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

---

Volume I, Issue 64

February I, 2007

---

## EAP

Employee Assistance Program

**1-800-526-3485**

**24 / 7 Assistance**

**[www.solutions-eap.com](http://www.solutions-eap.com)**

## DMR

**[www.ct.gov/dmr](http://www.ct.gov/dmr)**

**Central Office**

(860) 418-6000

**North Region**

(860) 263-2500

**West Region**

(203) 805-7400

**South Region**

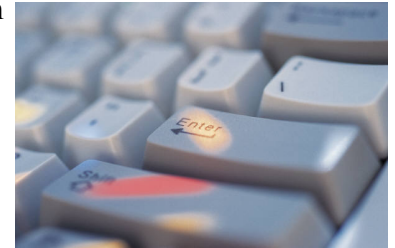
(203) 294-5049

**STS**

(203) 586-2000

## DMR Selects Vendor for New e-Learning Program

We are pleased to announce the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) has selected MC Strategies Inc. (MCS) to provide a comprehensive web-based learning system for direct support and other professionals who deliver services to individuals receiving support from the department. MCS has been providing the College of Direct Support (CDS) on-line curriculum to state-level departments, private agencies, community service boards, micro-boards, and individuals providing services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities since June of 2003. Currently, eight states and 319 agencies have purchased the CDS system. To date, more than 40,000 learners have taken and/or completed the CDS lessons on-line. This web-based curriculum will supplement and in some cases replace classroom-based training, and will be accessible from any computer with an internet connection.



continued on page 2

## New e-CAMRIS Application is Coming Soon

e-CAMRIS, a new web-based application is in the final stages of testing and is scheduled to replace the department's current CAMRIS system in February 2007. CAMRIS functions will remain unchanged, but the new application will have the look and feel of a PC application with drop-down selection fields and easier navigation capability.

Mock Go-Live deployment of e-CAMRIS began on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and makes the new application available to all DMR users for "parallel testing." During the "parallel testing" phase, DMR users may practice using e-CAMRIS by entering the data they are responsible for. However, all data entered in e-CAMRIS must also be entered in the current CAMRIS system. The current CAMRIS system will be the system of record during the "parallel testing" phase. Although users are encouraged to participate in "parallel testing," it is not a required activity.

It is anticipated that Production Deployment of e-CAMRIS will occur on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The current CAMRIS system will no longer be available as of February 15<sup>th</sup>. *Please note the February 20<sup>th</sup> production deployment date is tentative at this time and users will be notified of any changes.*

## "Ask the Commissioner"

If you have a question for Commissioner O'Meara, you are invited to e-mail Joan Barnish at [joan.barnish@po.state.ct.us](mailto:joan.barnish@po.state.ct.us)

## SEND US YOUR STORIES

### Employee News contacts:

North/Linda Schaefer

West/Eunice Rivera

South/Jolie Crescimano-Goss

CO/ Joan Barnish,  
Lori Conchado

## New e-Learning Program, *continued*

Some of the benefits of web-based learning include consistency of instruction, competency-based learning, around-the-clock availability, reduced travel costs and more efficient use of resources.

The CDS curriculum is developed and updated by the University of Minnesota Research and Training Center on Community Living and the U.S. Center for Excellence on Community Integration. It currently includes over 15 on-line training courses, each with multiple lessons and competency assessments on topics such as Developmental Disabilities, Services and Policies, Supporting Safe and Healthy Lives, Individual Empowerment and Self-Direction, Cultural Competency, Community Service and Networking, Positive Behavioral Supports & Crisis Intervention, Documentation and Record Keeping, Building and Maintaining Friendships, Direct Support Professionalism, Medication Supports, Employment Supports, Person-centered Planning, and Frontline Supervision and Management. Additional training courses are in development. The CDS System also includes a learning management system to assign and track completion of courses and produce management reports.

We would like to thank the following individuals for their participation on the e-Learning Proposal Review Committee: Bill Ale, DMR WR Staff Development Coordinator; Karen Davies, DMR CO Agency Personnel Director; Joe Drexler, DMR SR Assistant Regional Director for Public Programs; Clair Lary, DMR NR Residential Manager; Terry Macy, SARAH Tuxis Executive Director; Jim Pellino, CIB/Oakhill Training Director and John Tierney, DMR CO Curriculum Manager.

The program will initially be available to DMR employees and employees hired directly by individuals and families. The program will also be available to private provider agencies who enter into an agreement with DMR and MCS and pay an administrative fee. We will be working with the vendor to launch a pilot program in April 2007. Look for periodic updates on this exciting new training program. For more information on the CDS System, visit their website at: <http://www.collegeofdirectsupport.com>.

Please contact John Tierney, DMR Curriculum Manager, at: [john.tierney@po.state.ct.us](mailto:john.tierney@po.state.ct.us) or (860) 418-6137 for more information.

## Community Training Home Forum

Torrington area Community Training Home (CTH) providers joined a very spirited group of CTH professionals at a forum that included networking, information sharing and good old fashioned holiday socializing.

The Torrington Chamber of Commerce served as a pleasant site for old friends to connect, new friendships to be built and stories to be told. Not only did this group bring some holiday cheer to one another that was much needed, but they again inspired our Torrington team to continue to do the excellent work they do in supporting such giving and caring folks that make our homes so truly blessed.



**Back row** - Daniel Lavieri, Toni Barrett, Michelle Palmer, Keith Douglas, Randee Majka and Douglas Duford

**Front row** - Vilma Gonzalez, Loretta Oliveri, Donna Samperi, Pamela Fritz, Diane Marchi-Strattman, Maria Quirke and Patricia Marshall. Seated is Dot Centrella